

Where to find those famous Hoosier footprints.

By Sally Campbell Grout

There are a couple of ways you can consider yourself a “Hoosier.” You can be born and raised in Indiana; or, you can live here long enough for the state to consider you one of its own. Plenty of famous individuals have called Indiana home, and whether they’re born Hoosiers or honorary, their lives and accomplishments are celebrated throughout the state.

He played and he prayed.

Some people never figure out their ideal career. Billy Sunday was fortunate enough to figure it out twice. Sunday, born in Iowa, was a successful professional baseball player who walked away from the game to preach. In 1911, he moved his home base to Winona Lake in Northern Indiana, an area once known as “The World’s Largest Bible Conference.” Today, The Village at Winona (574-268-9888) is a charming community filled with artisan’s shops, historic sites, museums, recreation areas and restaurants. The Billy Sunday Home Museum and Visitor Center (877-786-3292), where the famously energetic evangelist lived until his death in 1935, has been restored to its original 1911 appearance, and reflects Arts and Crafts décor of the time. His wife, “Ma” Sunday, who lived in the home until her death in 1955, completed many of the home’s paintings and needlework items.

Patchwork preserved.

Walk into any fabric store or bookstore in America, and you’ll find row after row of books on quilting. But every quilt book author owes a debt to Marie Webster, the early 20th century woman who wrote the first authoritative book on the history of quilting: “Quilts: Their Story and How to Make Them.” Webster, at the time a nationally known quilt designer, was also revered for making her patterns readily available to the mass market. In July, her life, her art form, and her fellow artisans will be celebrated with the opening of the Quilters Hall of Fame in Marion (765-664-9333). Located in Webster’s former home, where she resided from 1902 to 1942, the Quilters Hall of Fame recognizes quilters and other individuals who have greatly contributed to quilting.

Take a quiet tour.

At more than 555 acres, Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis (800-809-3366) is the final resting place for more than 185,000 people, including several Indiana governors, mayors, and Civil War generals. Walking tours point out markers for many names you’ll recognize, including President Benjamin Harrison, Colonel Eli Lilly, beloved Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley and not-so-beloved bank robber John Dillinger. Riley’s

grave is of special note. Located at 860 feet above sea level, it's the highest point in the cemetery, and offers a spectacular view of the city.

For more on Riley...

Before you see where Riley is buried, you might want to see where he lived. The first writer to sell over a million dollars in poetry hails from Greenfield. You'll find interesting memorabilia at the Riley Home Complex (317-462-8539), his birth home.

A different kind of war hero.

While the evening news can keep us informed of the day's events, it can also feel like a competition as to who will get the story first. But during World War II, a man named Ernie Pyle from Indiana had a different goal: to report on the real story of life on the front. Soldiers respected him for his accurate reporting and for his willingness to put himself right in the action. Americans at home appreciated his true accounts of soldiers' actions and emotions. Today, the Pulitzer Prize winner's words are preserved and his life is remembered at the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site in Dana (765-665-3633), where you'll find the home where he was born, two Quonset huts, thousands of pieces of memorabilia, the shovel he used to dig foxholes, a typewriter he used early in his career, vignettes depicting his columns, and a jacket he wore while covering the troops.

Where the wheels started turning.

In the mid 19th century, a couple of brothers owned and operated a blacksmith shop in South Bend. Not a particularly interesting fact, until you find out that those brothers were named Clement and Henry Studebaker. Eventually, the Studebakers made wagons for the U.S. Army, and became the only manufacturer to successfully make the transition from horse-drawn to gasoline-powered vehicles. The Studebaker National Museum in South Bend (574-235-9714) displays 114 years of Studebaker history. Among the vehicles on display: the carriage President Lincoln rode in the night he was assassinated.

Reaching for the stars.

Lawrence County may be famous for its deep limestone quarries, but it's also famous for what it sent to the heavens above them. Not one but three astronauts hail from this area. Charles Walker has accumulated 20 days of experience in space and traveled 8.2 million miles. In 1983, NASA confirmed him as the first industrial payload specialist. Ken Bowersox served on the Hubble Space Telescope servicing and repair mission—an 11-day flight that included a record five space walks by four astronauts. Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom was one of the original seven Mercury astronauts, selected in 1959. He died tragically in a launch pad fire in what would have been the first manned flight test of the Apollo capsule. The Grissom

Memorial at Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell (812-849-4129) honors his life and work.

A busy artist.

You may not be surprised to hear John Mellencamp's work coming from a stereo, but you might be surprised to see it hanging on a wall. The Southern Indiana Center for the Arts in Seymour (888-524-1914) hosts the only permanent exhibit of Mellencamp's paintings. Mellencamp, the songwriter, singer, painter, and Seymour native, purchased the 1851 brick home and leases it to the county for \$1 a year. The Center serves as a place for county residents to exhibit and learn about the arts with classes, summer camps for kids, and studio time for members. The Center also displays works by such artists as Nancy Noel, Maureen O'Hara Pesta, and Richard Kingsley. The amphitheater at the Center hosts concerts and stage productions.

Positively presidential.

Abraham Lincoln moved to Southern Indiana as a child and lived here until age 21. At the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial (812-937-4541) in Lincoln City, a National Park, a working farm depicts a typical Indiana farm of the era. In addition, a trail of 12 stones leads visitors from the Cabin Site Memorial to the burial site of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, his mother. Each stone comes from a structure that was a part of Lincoln's life, such as the store where he worked as a teenager and the cottage in Washington, D.C. where he wrote the Emancipation Proclamation. Learn more about this beloved president at the Visitor Center and in the film "Forging Greatness—Lincoln in Indiana." At Lincoln State Park (812-937-4710), also in Lincoln City, the story of Lincoln's younger years are told in an energetic musical outdoor drama, "Young Abe Lincoln" (800-264-4ABE.)

A Lincoln connection.

Lincoln may have lived in Southern Indiana, but one of his greatest supporters hailed from the western part of the state. Henry S. Lane, founder of the Indiana Republican Party, was instrumental in getting Lincoln nominated for the presidency. The Lane Place Antebellum Mansion in Crawfordsville (765-362-3416), Lane's renovated home, features dozens of items of historical interest, including a painting of Lane by another man who lived in Crawfordsville, Lew Wallace, the author of "Ben Hur."

Two Fairmount favorites.

The Fairmount Historical Museum (PHONE) honors two creative men who were born and raised in the Indiana town. Fans of James Dean, the Hollywood actor, icon, and legend, will enjoy looking at items that are related to and were owned by James Dean and his family, including

awards, clothing and motorcycles. Prefer stars of more contemporary films? Garfield the Cat, who makes his movie debut this year, was created by Fairmount native Jim Davis. Both Davis and his famous orange feline are honored here.

Ready to trace those famous footprints? Learn more at enjoyindiana.com.